

ANCIENT

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AND

W I S D O M

REVIEW

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LEAD-IN

Firstly an apology for the time which has elapsed since the last issue appeared. Various causes could be stated but without detailing these I feel I can suggest that a better version of this magazine can be expected in the not too distant future. So to business, here we have the usual fare of books and magazines published which are likely to be of interest to the readership of this magazine. I feel that we are going through a fruitful period with books of real value being published rather than usual scissors and paste crass volumes. So here we go:::.....

"A GUIDE TO ANCIENT SITES IN BRITAIN" by JANET & COLIN BORD (Latimer New Dimensions, (£5-95))

There have been plenty of guides to the prehistoric remains of this country and any book has to have special merits to warrant a publisher risking covering the same or similar ground over again. In this case the argument is that this represents the first truly pictorial guide to our ancient heritage. So it seems fair to judge it foremost in this aspect, but also by a variety of other criteria: such as who is it for, is the selectivity appropriate and adequate, does it add anything to our knowledge of the earth mysteries, does it reflect the current turmoil in archaeology and prehistoric study?

Firstly then, the book as megalithic portfolio (mostly their own pictures). Here is its strength and the pictures overall are of a high quality and in quite a number of cases (notably Whispering Knights, Stonehenge, Swinside, Stenness, and various dolmens) capture moods of breathtaking intensity. They evoke the uncanny way in which mere crude stone constructions can appear as intensely impressive as the most majestic Gothic cathedral. They capture the way in which early man used his landscape and its raw materials to fashion monuments which were complementary rather than alien to their setting. Hillforts appear as natural appendages to the landforms. Here quality pervades.

Choice of sites is by impressive looking sites and accessibility. The former is a commercial consideration which is understandable -- and makes more or less for a *raison d'etre* -- but certain less obviously impressive and offbeat sites could have been photographed in "mood" circumstances, perhaps.

As for the readership, they state plainly that the book is as much for the "armchair traveller" as the out-of-doors seeker, and as such it must whet the appetite to visit more sites if its value is to be fully realised. For those with little or no knowledge of the range of megalithic monuments there is a section briefly describing the archaeological types of structure and a time chart. For those wishing to locate specific sites the details are straightforward, fully informative and laid out similar to Ward Lock Red Guides. This aspect is specially gratifying. Details of measurements and monument types are balanced by references to the legends associated with many of the sites. Map diagrams and grid references are given plus access information.

Back to selectivity, some could unkindly infer that the non-appearance here of sites not easily accessible suggests that a lightning tour was undertaken to create this work and that the Bords fitted in as many sites per day as possible, but they have, as readers familiar with their earlier work know, been photographing sites for many years. However, there are large areas of Britain entirely ignored, such as southern East Anglia, where a page's worth of puddingstone sites would have been useful -- even mark stones -- with explanatory data on such unimpressive but contentious and controversial artifacts. Northern England, too, is missing Brimham Rocks and Ilkley's Swastika Stone.

Where I feel there is no excuse for what I regard as travesties of judgment are the utilisation of the current "county" boundaries (these are arbitrary, purely administrative -- and undigested by 99% of the population) and metric measurements. For any student of the sites -- orthodox or alternative -- there is not one comment of originality on any single site. Admittedly such an approach could appear obtrusive, but leys for instance do not make an appearance until an apologetic "some theories" selection of a handful of further reading books at the very end. The average reader would be forgiven for believing that all is well in archaeology and that no revolution as explosive as Vesuvius is underway. It is as if someone had written a history of World War Two and mentioned Adolf Hitler in a footnote.

Yet it must be realized that those who have recently become interested in pre-history have largely been motivated by the current shifting of paradigms in archaeology and it is information on leys and commentaries on actual energy that is required more than measurements.

Grumbles aside, the final assessment of any book must be essentially based upon whether the work achieves its purpose. In this case the answer is a resounding "yes". It delivers the goods and that is to provide a satisfying pictorial record of visually exciting and easily accessible sites of ancient man.

"MYSTERIOUS BRITAIN" and "THE SECRET COUNTRY"
both by JANET & COLIN BORD (both Paladin, £1-95)

When "Mysterious Britain" appeared in hardback it was attacked by a number of prominent commentators who were unhappy with what they felt were the authors' intentions (and those of the publisher) and capabilities. As I wrote in The Ley Hunter at the time: "This book is basically a primer designed to interest the general reader in matters such as leys, zodiacs and gently reveal the esoteric significance of the forms and siting of sacred sites. I am sure that no other motive is intended and that the Bords could have written a deeper study, but chose to set more feet on the Aquarian path rather than guide a little further those already upon it.....The text is basic and generalizes on prehistoric matters along the themes spotlighted in The Ley Hunter. As for the price, £5-90, it is high and may be prohibitive for many who would benefit from such a work. Do I recommend it? Yes, with reservations. It is a book for the beginner, and probably the pictures help to give the flavour of old sites in a way which poetic prose and an onslaught of factual data is incapable of doing."

This book is now available at a reasonable price and should now lose its coffee table book aura which soured its original reception somewhat.

As for "The Secret Country", here the Bords produce a distinct thesis and their interpretation of the folklore of megalithic monuments is unequivocally related to ley power or the earth spirit, whereas I, too, regard it as highly probable that such a manifestation could have generated a high proportion of the legends, but I believe there are alternative ways of arguing continuities, having spent three years solidly researching and writing "The Living Stones" (an unpublished investigation of prehistoric monuments' folklore and the modern equivalents). The creation and distribution of folklore are factors not argued, but the Bords have taken care in marshalling their information and provided useful bibliographies and indices. Pleasantly laid out, visually easy on the eye, "The Secret Country" balances a great deal of detail without allowing the repetition to become overpowering.

It is a more mature work than "Mysterious Britain" and thematically by sticking to their guns they have positioned themselves to stand or fall on a singular interpretation of folkloric accounts. Reductionism versus inclusionism, but it answers those who felt "M.B." had no real coherence. They argue their thesis competently, constructively and convincingly, but as Evan Hadingham wisely wrote: "Indeed the same stories can be interpreted in different ways to supply contradictory evidence."

"ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF METAPHYSICAL MEDICINE" by Benjamin Walker (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £6-75) and
"A BAREFOOT DOCTOR'S MANUAL" prepared by The Revolutionary Health Committee of Hunan Province (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £5-95).

The type of book covered by Ancient Skills and Wisdom Review generally lies in the occult realm in its widest sense and will be written from a non-orthodox viewpoint. That is not to presume there is a conscious anti-establishment or anti-science house rule, but I try to give the average reader an assessment of alternatives. As for science most people take it for granted and their main contact is with the medical profession, whose judgments are generally made in hushed tones or mystifying terms that the patient sees them as priests or even sorcerors. The marvels of transplant surgery are now as impressive as Filipino psychic surgery, and as for cloning.....

But at least the two books here may appear to be more esoteric and technological than one would expect of British allotropic textbooks, they are both lucid and endlessly fascinating. We really do think too little of our bodies and this may be partly the fault that we have been encouraged to think of the mind as divorced from body and that medicine should be left to doctors and not to their inquisitive patients. Take these three times a day after meals.....

Walker scared me something shocking when I opened the book at random and began with the section on asylums. One is left in no doubt that such institutions can be living hells creating docile vegetables for convenience's sake as so little cash is deemed available for their proper functioning and that the author disapproves of the modus operandi into which the average psychiatrist in such a place adopts. I was amazed to find the ratio of men to women in asylums is above 1-30. Why? Women, in my experience do not seem more prone to breakdowns. Actually I've had this review copy since March and have been dipping into it frequently rather than making a concerted effort at writing up a comprehensive overview.

On a mundane level it covers medicine historically and a great deal of research by the author is indicated by the comprehensive reading lists following each topic. His approach is to attempt a synthesis of orthodox medicine together with all shades of psychology along with the occult and comparative religion. Such a brave and immense project will needle many practitioners at each level, but to an interested outsider like myself I find this book proves a more enlightening volume than the Pear's medical encyclopaedia we sub-editors on The Mail, Hartlepool, consult with unhealthy frequency. Many mundane ailments such as piles are not included by Walker in preference to more less easily remedied complaints, such as vampirism, schizophrenia, suicide, syphilis, migraine, eccentricity, fear and exorcism.

I would grumble at the use of the word "civilized" with regard to countries where cancer is stated as six times more prevalent during the past 70 years as, likely as not, it is the "civilized" society nodes causing this. But his treatment of this terrifying malady covers the whole area of possible causes inclusionistically and cheerfully ends with the remedy from folklore of disposing of it by consuming toads and frogs. He includes the proposition that geological conditions may be a causal factor, which reminded me that it was suggested to me that the Black Death was transmitted by leys.

To sum up (not an easy task with such a book as wide-ranging as this), we have all experienced orthodox medicine and if we have not considered alternatives then here seems a genuine and sensible guide to alternatives, and should we feel nauseated by drug therapy and surgery then we might usefully avoid these by considering the non-material substratum of the human organism and our environment. Easier said than done, but here is a book which affords a highly readable argument to consider all options.

As for the Chinese book, it is designed as a manual for diagnosis and treatment of diseases, which in addition to building upon contemporary techniques leans heavily upon traditional foundations of herbs, acupuncture and moxibustion. Massively detailed its high price as a paperback seems justified, but to the average English reader its format can hardly, sadly, attract all but the practitioner with proven expertise. A bold publishing venture, I feel, and I recommend the book heartily, but its application to our medical viewpoint is probably limited.

bob dylan APPROXIMATELY

"Dylan: An Illustrated History", produced by Michael Gross (Elm Tree Books, £3.95).

"Bob Dylan: An Illustrated Discography", by Stuart Hoggard and Jim Shields (Media Express, £1.90).

"Rolling Thunder Logbook", by Sam Shepard (Penguin, £1.75).

EARLS COURT and Blackbushe concerts by Bob Dylan brought about a spate of new books on the transatlantic troubadour and the three reviewed here are all valuable additions for the serious Dylanologist or just those who wish to know more of rock music's only true genius.

Dylan towers over contemporary music and despite millions of words and with so much of his output easily available, he remains a monumental talent though personally shadowy and ambiguously elusive as a character in himself.

As always much is written, yet in the final analysis little is revealed.

Dylanology—as the study of the minutiae of Dylan's life and work has become known (with even A. J. Weberman combing Dylan's garbage for clues)—naturally has its pitfalls and one's approach, if not tempered by common sense can lead to many calamitous avenues and pointless cul-de-sacs.

There are those who see in Bob Dylan their own meagre thoughts magnified, justified, or isolated, and there are those who regard the whole exercise as intellectual accumulation.

In my own case, I have found key phrases in Dylan's songs pertinent to serious problems and acted accordingly. I hope I can honestly say that I was not using them as justifications, but rather that they met my needs with a synchronicity which expressed both the requirements of reason and intuition.

PITFALL

Another pitfall must always be that with a character so elusive, anyone's assessment must be off centre and there is always the likelihood that any admirer will visualize his hero as an ideal image of himself or even project his own ego upon that character.

His attractiveness as a subject for scrutiny is multifaceted: he appeals to the mind for his obvious learning, experience, erudition, and wisdom; to the ear for his exceptional music; to the romantic in us for his mystery and his publicized personal conquests; to the less serious side for his humour, which abounds throughout his songs and his book "Tarantula"; and to all who are sensitive, we see reflected in his overall personality reflected aspects of ourselves.

These books have all been motivated by admiration for the man and two of the books seek to unveil Dylan's mystique and the third is an annotated discography.

There are no serious attempts here to assess Bob Dylan's art, but the essence and special value of his work permeates all of them.

EXCELLENCE

Few have been unmoved by his songs and their compelling power is based upon deeply felt experiences and a fascination with people, his (Jewish) faith and a close affinity with the psyche, all expressed in his art as highly personal and original viewpoints and universal. He comments upon the ordinary human condition and more spiritual and cosmic aspects of man's existence.

Michael Gross is at pains to "produce" an illustrated history of Dylan. The format is suggestive of the paperback coffee table production job, but such cynicism would be untoward, I feel, for the sheer excellence of the pictures requires such size so that they can be presented viably.

These cover all eras of Dylan's career and though I've seen many equally observant studies (notably in Stephen Pickering's works), they are of a high quality and lend depth to their subject, yet it seems this work is aimed at the spectator of rock keen to know more of this man whose career seems to have suddenly reblossomed, but who does not require being regaled with the author's metaphysics (and by association those of his subject).

Gross basically treats his subject objectively and we learn nothing of Gross's personality (unlike Shepard's treatment, as we shall see).

I found the book on one level, as when it comes to Dylanology Magnus Magnusson would have difficulty coaxing the word "pass" out of my mouth if interrogated on this subject. Yet it is a good, general introduction to the man, playing down for the sake of not having to become encumbered in dicey subjects such as aspects as drugs, sexuality, and metaphysics.

Not that it is simply a scissors and paste journalistic job by a disinterested observer, though the authoritative "sources" concluding the book show that the author has used much seminal material, but little personal research. In fact, only Bob Markel's background as editor responsible for "Tarantula" and former record producer John Hammond offer any real new material.

LABOUR OF LOVE

Another view of Dylan produced by authors who have also never had any contact



with the man himself is offered by Hoggard and Shields. This is a labour of love and has grown from a series published in Sounds magazine. It offers as full as has ever been attempted a coverage of the official and bootlegged recordings of Dylan, plus chronicling sessions on which Dylan played.

Everything they could track down (no pun intended) is listed chronologically by date of recording (not release dates) and it makes good documentary reading (as with Gross they provide an adequate number of events which influenced and were influenced by Dylan's place in the musical counterculture).

It achieves the purpose of cataloguing information on Dylan's music, his sessions and those with other musicians plus information on those who worked directly with him; is informative, but not adding much that the seasoned Dylanologist would have access to elsewhere. Cross-referencing and duplication are, however, necessary and without which there would be no point in this being added to the not inconsiderable number of books on Dylan.

Despite two years of re-writing and checking after the Sounds appearance, plus inability to be sure of definitive authority (naturally), there is still a fair amount of mis-statement (such as the identity of persons on the "John Wesley Harding" cover and misidentification of Pete Hammill, etc.).

BOOTLEGS

Another quibble—not at the authors, but one with which I'm sure they would sympathize—is how infuriating it is that there is so little official recorded material available compared with the bootlegs. The ratio being about 4:1.

In addition to fact after fact, the 134-word paperback is illustrated with more than 35 pictures has bibliography, index, and stop press updating it to January this year Essential for Dylan freaks

Fetish

With Shepard virtually nothing is delivered as far as insights into Dylan. What the book tells us primarily about Dylan is that his wish for privacy remained despite the huge entourage necessary for the Rolling Thunder tour and the parallel filming of his "Renaldo and Clara" epic. Shepard was hired to produce scintillating dialogue for this film, but his influence appears minimal and he never points out where and when he was phased out.

In fact, we learn a fair bit about the egotistical Shepard, not only from his bizarre Kerouac-era writing style, which is wholly redundant today, but that he must have a toilet fetish, for he mentions this room and its purpose on page 3, 5, 17, 47, 98, 131, 137, 169, and 182.

The writer is a playwright, but he seems to have scant ability to reproduce interesting dialogue between the assembled superstars and in some of his passages his observations—as on Dylan's dog—are worthy of reproduction in Private Eye's Pseudo Corner.

Stunning

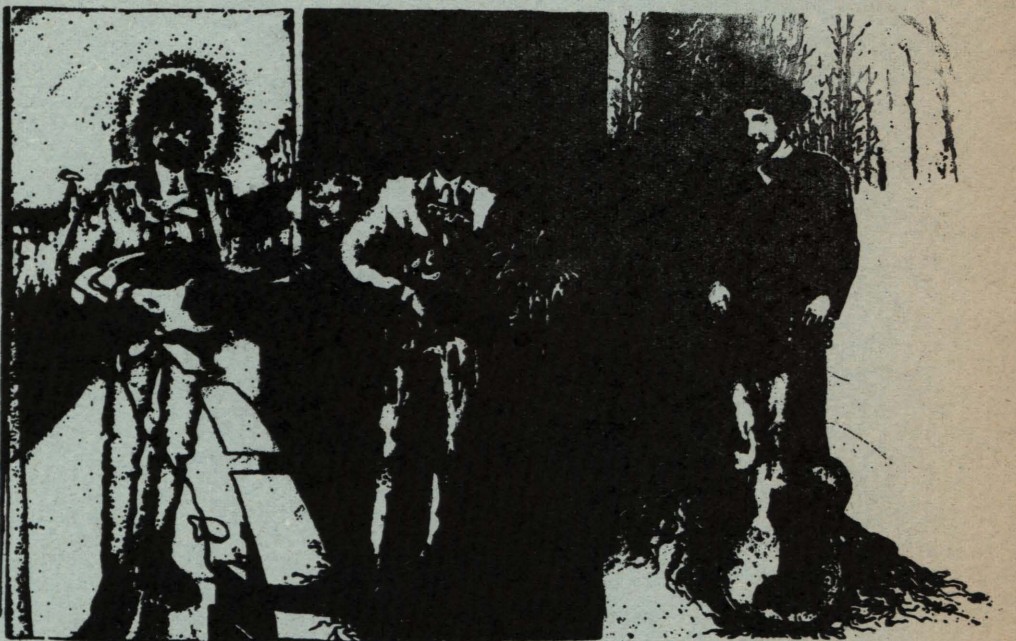
Shepard does not even strike one as being a Dylan admirer, unable even to identify certain songs, but one of those people who by luck happen to be in the right place at the right time.

This chronicle of a key phase in Dylan's career could have been done far better, but let's be thankful for what we have. It is a useful piece of documentation but like the discography it basically whets the appetite and leaves visions of what could have been.

As with the Gross book, the pictorial display is quite stunning (apart from some really incongruous choices), specially the pictures of Dylan and a super one of Joan Baez on Page 75 worthy of Page 3.

There must have been more gossip and excitement than is here revealed, but though far from the "startlingly intimate look" claimed by a New York Post reviewer, it is rather more like a captain's "log," with the basics given for posterity, but none of the real below decks goings on.

So, here are three rock books all worthy on their own terms, for you to consider.



"THE MYSTERIES OF KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL" by Nigel Pennick
(Thorsons, £2-75)

Perhaps, because its name is somewhat misleading King's College Chapel has not received the critical attention it deserves. No humble Christian edifice this, for when King Henry VI (the "royal saint" -- he failed canonization twice) enlarged his original foundation in Cambridge, he decided to endow it with cathedral dimensions -- and metrologically and mystically significant ones, too. Visitors may wonder at the unsurpassed fan-vaulting and stained glass, but these aspects -- detailed lovingly and in scholarly fashion by the author, along with the background to the work and its beginnings -- had an occult and symbolic purpose which make this book more than a handy guide to this tourist attraction.

As with much of geomantic interest -- a subject in which the author is an authority -- there have been "improvements", of which Pennick is scathing; the latest being a "botch-up job, attempting to mix perpendicular and renaissance with 1960s coffee-bar modern without regard to the true purpose of the chapel as a microcosm of creation". He sees as a scandal the placing of a Rubens painting and this £110,000 "travesty" as a "litany of the till." There is also mention of the miracles associated with the geomantically-sited tomb of Henry VI and it would have been interesting to have had a dowser look into the siting and also attempt location by map dowsing of the missing foundation stone. Also the distance stone was transported, from Yorkshire in part, is interesting. The author has written authoritatively and fascinatingly (though with some quirky spelling) and his own illustrations make this a worthy reprint of a privately published (1974) local study.

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"CASTANEDA'S JOURNEY" by Richard de Mille (Abacus, £1-50)

Obviously part of the worth of this book is lost if one has not read the four books by Carlos Castaneda claiming to be his account as ethnographer among Yacui Indians. The central thesis is, however, an argument by several means to show that Castaneda was writing fiction. I first started "A Separate Reality" and was enjoying it immensely until page 42 when an incongruity relating to a car being left and then reappearing elsewhere left me shocked, baffled and betrayed. The apprentice and the sorcerer relationship had seemed so real. It was like realising as a child there is no Santa Claus.

Yet by the subtitle, "The Power and the Allegory", de Mille entertainingly, wittily and constructively rebuilds one's faith by pointing out that as a creation "don Juan the myth has come to stay". As fictional literature de Mille equates Castaneda as something of a Shakespeare, of metaphysics though he does not heartily endorse the style. He admires Castaneda's ability to find, select, transform and marshall others' thoughts, disclaim his sources, fictionalize the work and pass it off as doctoral dissertation! No mean feat.

De Mille was not the first to suspect a hoax had been perpetrated upon the UCLA professors, but it was he who diligently sifted the evidence and interviewed protagonists before concluding that Castaneda is a story teller who tricks us into learning, a fantasist with a mission, and a mythmaker who has become a myth and a culture hero himself.

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"SOME SYMBOLS OF THE FEMININE PRINCIPLE" by Kay Thomson
(from P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP, no price given)

A slim volume written by Kay and illustrated by Jay Devereux for the Festival of Mind and Body. After a challenging, correct, comprehensive, compact three chapter introduction there is a startling and anti-climactic holding aloft of the pomegranate, whose symbology then follows. This jolt is explained by this being a sampler culled as a work-in-progress and it goes on to other aspects of matriarchal

lore, though Kay was at pains to persuade me that she is not of the fierce feminist bra-burning fraternity. It augurs well for a larger work on mythology; a subject which is going to be critical to our understanding of our inner worlds rather than as categorizable ephemera of past civilizations.

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"SPELLCRAFT" by Robin Skelton (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £3-95)

It is appropriate that a distinguished poet and man of letters such as Robin Skelton should have written such a book, for who but the poet is more likely to invoke -- consciously or unconsciously -- the Muse, one of the best known (if often referred to facetiously) spirit aids. This work is subtitled "A Manual of Verbal Magic" and in addition to being a survey of the history of spells is intended as a practical handbook for those willing to believe that thought is energy and that it can be utilised beneficially.

The commonsensical approach is to be heartily applauded. His way is not that of shrouding in mysterious terms what are basically fairly simple and straightforward requirements. For instance by addressing St Christopher if one wishes to travel safely is neither Christian idolatry, akin to pagan superstition or an act of witchcraft, but a means of instruction whereby a code understood by the psyche is transmitted. The author is confident of the efficacy of calling upon the correct spirits for necessary acts and that if done purposively the spell-maker's deep mind will attune and succeed. The majority of people would regard this as wish-fulfilment fantasy, yet would be less certain if challenged to draw any dividing line between secular spell-making and Christian prayer.

Much of the book's value is that although it is strongly academic and wide-ranging in its historical and geographical sweep, it is designed to create faith in such acts as invocation and incantation to encourage spell-making to bless and heal, acts which improve the quality of one's own life and that of others around us, and also it is not difficult, requiring faith rather than years of study and practise.

If one's goal is simply to find inner peace and satisfaction gained from helping others then spell-making will be rewarding. It must not be for self-aggrandizement or power for its own sake, nor should the novice be deluded into thinking it is a route to spiritual illumination and an easy path to mystical experience and cosmic consciousness. The result if the rules are followed, plus patience and practise, will be the development of utilising psychic energies and gaining a deeper understanding of one's psyche. "I wish I...." Well, with faith and effort that wish can become reality via spell-making.

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"NEEDLES OF STONE" by Tom Graves (Turnstone, £4-95)

"PENDULUM: THE Psi CONNECTION" by Francis Hitching (Fontana, 85p)

"DIVINING THE PRIMARY SENSE" by Herbert Weaver (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £4-75)

These three books are welcome expositions of types of energies generally ignored by orthodox science. Hitching's account is extraordinarily detailed and wide ranging, Graves draws parallels to substantiate the effects the interaction of man has upon landscape, and Weaver hypothesizes unfamiliar radiation in nature, art and science.

Francis Hitching's previous book, "Earth Magic", drew upon the talents of Bill Lewis to explore the energy which had been discovered at prehistoric standing stones. The most interesting part of that book was the experiments carried out at Crickhowel with Prof. John Taylor and Dr. Eduardo Balanovski to demonstrate by utilising a gaussmeter that some form of power is extant at the ancient sites. Unfortunately Taylor has subsequently described the results as inconclusive (Graves being scathing in his assessment of the preconceptions of rationalist reductionism brought to the problem by Taylor). Hitching's approach to psi is similar to that brought to leys: a journalist's look at a subject (i.e. objectivity can sometimes

be an irritant where the reader would prefer to feel the writer to be more committed on certain aspects) and a well balanced one, too. Maybe its paperback format gives an undeserved impression, but its length and the tightness of writing could make it claustrophobic for the average reader, though its comprehensiveness will be applauded by committed dowsers and it certainly brings the subject up to date and shows which way developments are likely. It is not a "wow, gee-whiz, what about this?" quick guided tour around that landmarks of the psychic landscape, but a soberly written assessment of the dowser's art and its implications as a key to expanded consciousness.

The book is divided into three: the first part dealing with dowsing historically, its applications, and advice on developing the abilities of dowsers; part two deals with radiations and our sensitivity to these; and the third part connects divining with other aspects of the parapsychological spectrum.

Hitching appears unaware, however, of some important material. He notes that dowsers "could probably detect the tiny drift in the magnetic field of the earth each day", when such an account by Circunlibra -- "Tides of the Day" in The Ley Hunter -- had covered this. Also he ignores the pioneering work in dowsing pre-historic sites by Guy Underwood, whose "Pattern of the Past" is essential reading for all those interested in megalithic monuments.

In fact, Underwood's sterling work was the main impulse leading Graves to become interested in the role played by megalithic monuments in geomancy and led him to make extensive adaptations of Underwood's central thesis of the earth's subtle patterns.

Already archaeology is in the main grudgingly accepting the work of Prof. Alex Thom and others which demonstrates the high abilities of man 4,000 years ago to encode detailed geometrical and astronomical features in stone circles and alignments. Graves takes to these ancient sacred sites his dowsing abilities and adds a new dimension to our comprehension of the complexity of these sites. "Needles Of Stone" details how he and colleagues have mapped the changing energy patterns and flows associated with the megaliths.

The variety of emanations found by Underwood are extended from patterns of the past to patterns also of the present. Underwood ignored leys and it is good that Graves has been able to link the two cohesively and identifies a distinctive "overground" pulse he has dowsed which is apparently the most substantial evidence yet presented to back up the claims for ley power, which in the past have been generally accepted, though described with such woolliness as to be almost worthless.

The needles of the title are the stones set in the land paralleled by the use of needles in Chinese acupuncture healing to affect the flows of energy in humans. The analogy is utilised throughout the work, arguing for the effects caused upon the Earth by man's intervention with energies to boost fertility or reduce illness. The work of the late Tom Leithbridge on ghosts and "ghouls" is found to amplify the arguments as it is identified to form a basis for Graves's belief that weather control is part of the coding inherent in the energy pattern.

There is much personal data, which is a refreshing facet, but one area which is likely to cause some disagreement is over the clash between paganism and Christianity, which will probably be regarded as offensive to many of the latter. I think Graves is mistaken in believing that today's Christianity is as unenlightened about energies as he states or that a return to paganism would be the panacea he envisages. Granted his points are valid, but it is human nature which is the ghost in the machinery of reasserting megalithic civilization's ideals and religions tend to be largely shadows of human -- rather than divine -- thought. As a Gnostic/pagan oriented person, I have found the power strongest for me in Christian edifices.

It is a disturbing book, for it leaves one paranoid about microwaves and the military/economic strategies involved and implied; also the possible harm to one's health from the various invisible emanations. However, if as demonstrated here, the powers were once used to enhance the quality of life, there is no reason why we should not aim to bring about another golden age by utilising the same principles.

Weaver is a different writer indeed. Not without reason, I suspect, have his publishers chosen to promote books by T.C. Lethbridge on the dust jacket, for Weaver's approach is very similar and so is his writing style. His book is not the easiest of reads. It is erudite and to the unenlightened must appear somewhat cranky. The reader is expected to take everything at face value -- and with so extraordinary a thesis this appears disarmingly arrogant.

I am sure that the reader of this magazine will, however, be sympathetic to his central thesis that people, living things and objects emit radiations and that prehistoric man was better able to sense these -- without the use of the Revealer Field Detector used by the author to find protective forms throughout nature and by non-industrialized man.

Mainly he argues the use of symbols throughout history in buildings and rituals taken directly from acute observation of flora and fauna.

Weaver is not without tasteful humour of a sort, as when noting the current increase in wearing of ornaments he states, "I am aware that even a demure little cross when worn as a pendant inevitably leads the male eye to a girl's bosom", though this might not have the suppressive effect necessary for the girl to retain virginal purity.

In today's world he sees the use of his findings via the Revealer as helping in medical diagnosis and the seeking of missing persons.

No doubt he will be criticised for his maverick imperiousness of presentation, but I would suggest that here is a useful line of research worthy of further investigation. The originality and obvious thoroughness of research is impressive. It is also to the publisher's credit that the book's layout reflects the text's originality and it is not geared to a preconceived stereotype. The setting of type is unjustified ("ragged" or not squared off -- to the uninitiated) with symbols abound amongst the text.

To sum up: here are three books, all of very different characters, but all providing vital information on areas hitherto neglected.

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"THE FOLKLORE OF STAFFORDSHIRE" by Jon Raven (B.T. Batsford, £4-95)

"COUNTRY WHEELWRIGHT" by Jocelyn Bailey (B.T. Batsford, £5-95)

Jon Raven's book the latest of the finely researched country folklore volumes published by Batsford. The format is as in sister books in the series, with the seasons, birth to death, the working day, sports and pastimes, and folk medicine and superstition, ghost lore, legends of the Devil, wicthes, giants, dragon (only in a brief rhyme, fairies and others. This county, including a rural area plus the Potteries and the Black Country is as rich in tales as any district. The supernatural is balanced with rituals and practises connected with festivals and annual events. Jon Raven writes both authoratively and entertainingly, bringing his scholarship as a folksong collector to bear, and this interest is also reflected in the wealth of urban and industrial material generated during the past 150 years. It is not just a rewriting of dusty tomes, but a living record of the humour, pastimes and working life of colliers and potters, rather than the thoughts of credulous rustics.

On witches he reports a modern instance of white witches opening a shop to sell equipment for fellow faith followers, but does not delve into such areas of the new folklore as UFOs and rumour transmission. Unless such regions of folklore are accorded their proper place such books will become petrified.

There are extensive notes, bibliography, indices of tale type and motifs and general index.

Dying crafts touch an emotive chord in most people and with its period pictures, "Country Wheelwright", will be an attractive buy for many. Nostalgia for trades which are only just hanging on in our mechanized society may seem even more attractive with many people's hankering for "The Good Life"-style self sufficiency and a new awareness of the value of traditional crafts.

FORTEAN TIMES: A miscellany of news, notes and references on current and historical strange phenomena, related subjects and philosophies. Q. £3. From R.J.M. Rickard, c/o Dark They Were & Golden-Eyed, 9-12 St Annes Court, London W.1. No. 25. Editor Bob Rickard questions scientific paradigms, finds them wanting and shifting and introduces new thought on reality and the brain/mind problem. Paul Screeton discusses a Dutch School "UFO" painting with artistic criticism by Chris Castle. The name Fayette and high strangeness are discussed by Bill Grinstad. There is the editor's great Fortean computer project, and the procession of the damned this issue includes shocks, forcefields and curses, phantom cats and attacks by animals, outer space oddities, strange falls, feral children, and phantom figures. Plus excellent review section, letters and snippets. No. 26. Usual features and topics covered include antiquities, feral children, compulsion, odd wildlife, Christ's face at Shamokin, MAs, electromagnetic oddities, falls and a Tom Bearden article which sees deep meaning in cattle mutilations (and which I appreciate but feel far-fetched, yet look for further developments).

MUFOB: An informed journal devoted to ufology and related subjects. Q. £1-25 from John Rimmer, 11 Beverley Road, New Malden, Surrey. New series 10, spring 1978. Tenth anniversary issue -- congratulations! The thinking person's UFO magazine which leaves its rivals as also-rans. As always a uniformly intelligent and challenging issue. A worthy call for "A Structured Approach To the Analysis of Non-Physical UFO Evidence" by Donald A Johnson opens the proceedings. Its three-man editorial team reviews the past decade in ufology and their viewpoints are basically coeval and ones I find sympathy with. Curiously I had forwarded a piece on the Hartlepool Press's reaction to the 1909 airship scare and found Nigel Watson's archive delvings in Lincs. reported in another article. Roger Sandell reviews recent manifestations of ancient astronautology. Plus highly readable book reviews. New series 11. My article "A Newspaper Looks At The Airship" appears. "Anatomy of a Percipient" has Nigel Watson investigating the first part of the case of witness Paul Bennett. On the same area of ufology Harry Tokarz asks whether UFO witnesses are public property. As usual the remainder is also of a high standard.

THE LEY HUNTER: Unsurpassable in the field of earthy mysteries. Six issue sub £3. (U.S. 9 dollars). P.O. Box 152, London N10 1EP. No. 81. A special readers' issue with letters on a huge number of earth mysteries topics which allows for many points to be made which though hardly worthy of expansion to article length are certainly valid. At greater length editor Paul Devereux and Ian Thomson give a Cotswold ley as their alignment for this issue and include aerial supplement -- no less. A former editor, Jimmy Goddard, reports on the highly instructive Moot 478. Paul Screeton's column focuses on the DoE policy at Stonehenge. No. 82. I am joined by another columnist, John A. Glover, discussing astrology from an earth mysteries slant. Jeremy Harte discusses early games, Paul Screeton considers leys as anti-science symbolism, Dr Derek Banks looks at "reality" and Paul Devereux argues for community geomancy, Chris Castle goes to an exhibition by Jill Bruce and Bruce Lacey and comes away delighted, David Furlong sees circles before his eyes as round leys and Guy Ragland Phillips seeks Blacko. Super issue with excellent book reviews and other miscellaneous items. A magazine you cannot afford to ever miss.

WARK: From Rosemary Pardoe, Flat 2, 38 Sandown Lane, Liverpool 15. 30p or 85p for 3-issue sub. A review of fanzines and semi-prozines. For those unfamiliar with the mags produced by fans of various genres of writing Wark offers a guide to what is available. No. 11. The editor reviews British fantasy mags, Ramsey Campbell on the U.S. scene, Mike Grace on U.K. comiczines, but there is a ludicrously ill-informed Dave Langford on "occult fanzines" (actually just Quest and Star Child) which is an insult to any questing individual and unworthy of Wark. A letter column and grand cover of wild cat and Celtic heads. No. 12. makes up somewhat with Rolls kind and involved (as in interested) commentary upon the uniformly excellent Fortean Times. Fantasy, comics, "The Prisoner" and letters, too.

COVEN: From A.H. Services, 303 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 5AJ. Q. Sub. £1. No. 2. Peter King fails to impress on "The Illuminati Conspiracy" whereas I enjoyed Arnold Weetch on "The Ayana Cult". Derek J. Rolls is sensible on Dr Dee and TZs. Poem, one review and adverts.

THE ATLANTIAN: Q mag of so-named society with philosophy of tolerance, understanding and spiritual expansion. Annual sub £2-40 from The Atlanteans, 42 St George Street, Cheltenham, GL50 4AF. No. 174. Athene Williams writes of the occult effect of music, which is denigrating towards pop music (yet rock singer has changed a whole generation -- for the better!); Sir George Trevelyan on New Age Thought; Mary Collier on Druidic/Roman times in the South-West; and Susan Reoliff on "What it Means to be an Occultist". Betty Wood's "Signs of the Times" column is fascinating, as ever, and among reports are information on weather, earthquakes, UFOs, Turin shroud, fossils, search for God, yeti and a huge vulture in Wales. There are also book reviews, message from Helio-A^ucanophus and adverts. No. 175. I can't say too much here as pages 10 and 31 were blank so forestalling comment on two seemingly important articles, but Nerys Dee has a sensible piece on dreams and I contribute a Fortean piece on amphibian/reptilian curiosities.

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LANTERN: Published by the Borderline Science Investigation Group in East Anglia. Q. Mag sub is 35p and full membership £1-50. From Ivan Bunn, 3 Dunwich Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4RZ. No. 22. Nigel Pennick on "East Anglian Field Names", M.W. Burgess on "The Secret Tunnels of Norfolk and Suffolk", UFO report, plus book reviews, exchange mags listing and snippets from old copies of The Lowestoft Journal. No. 23. Includes two pages of Spellthorn (Journal of the East Suffolk and Norfolk Antiquarians). Also Mike Howard on witchcraft, recent hauntings, UFO and mystery lights reports, and an excellent -- if on-goingly unfinished -- piece of investigative journalism by Ivan Bunn on Black Toby (more work of this quality would be appreciated from all magazines).

PICWINNARD: The magazine of Wessex leys and folklore. B. £2 from Hythe Bow, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3EH. No. 5. Ferd le Vere surveys pre-Christian Glasonbury, Jan Lilly looks at "Midsummer", A.D. Jack looks at more "Patterns of Mystery", an Exmoor ley hunt, Paul Herniman concludes his "Cornish: A language of Wessex", Vince Russett debates on ghosts and "Borborygmus" lists a few items of Fortean. Plus book reviews, magazines listing, plus other miscellaneous items and ending with churches as ley points.

NESSLETTER: From Rip Hepple, Ness Information Service, Huntshildford, St John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 1RQ. £1-75 (U.S. 7dollars). No. 28. Tony Shiels "No. 1" slide investigated and comes through with flying colours. There is also a copy of an affidavit made by this colourful character. Plus sightings and other odds and ends. No. 29. Rip's own holiday experiences at Loch Ness, Theo Brown's reactions from an underwater experimnt which suggests a 30' creature, work by the Academy of Applied Science, sighting, exhibition and miscellany.

QUEST: From BCM-SCL Quest, London, WICIV 6XX. Q. Sub. £1-75; single copies 50p. No. 34. D. Ashcroft-Nowicki on the Aquarian Age, Beryl M. Mercer looks at the weather, J.D. Elliott diagnoses esoteric medicine, C.D.F. Shepherd contemplates Silbury Hill, editor Marian Green looks at "Magicians, Mystics and Scientists", Dr W.G. Wood looks at numbers, Diana Dendike looks at summer festivals and Carlyle A Pushong meditates on "The Celtic Cross And Other Symbols". Plus book reviews, notices and announcements. As always pleasantly balanced and with something for everyone.

SANGREAL: Q. Sub. £2-50 from BM Sangreal, London WICIV 6XX. Vol. 1, No.1. A new mag of the Western Mystery Tradition plus folklore and crafts. I particularly endorse the article by Gareth Knight on Isis and other topic include the Holy Grail, the Rollrights and Silbury Hill, plus announcements and book reviews. Nicely presented.

PARAPSYCHOLOGY BOOK NEWS: B. £1-50 sub. Published by The Transpersonal Bookshop, 19 Stirling Place, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3YU. Vol. 1, No.2. Lists of books on parapsychology, reincarnation and psychic experiences, plus mags and journals. Articles on literature of Spiritualist movement plus book reviews..

Nigel Pennick, of 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD, is a prodigious producer of earth mysteries publications and a full review of the latest works will appear in the next issue. However, the following two items are available from the above address..... JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY: Q mag of the Institute of Geomantic Research, promoting debate on such topics as sacred geometry, TZs, leys, geomantic lore and earth mysteries. 60p per issue; membership of I.G.R. is £3 (and includes all IGR occasional papers produced during currency of sub). Vol. 2, No. 4. The Wandlebury debate continued, "Coldharbours" by Lt.-Col. J.B.P. Karslake, Michael Burgess on his Bury St Edmunds TZ, Stephen Oannes on geomancy, Rupert Pennick on Masons, Michael Behrend on Andover church alignments and David Adams on ley hunting corrigenda. Plus letters, reviews and other items. ALBION: Dubbed on the cover as "The National Magazine for Enquiry into the Ancient Mysteries of Britain" Sub. £2. No.1. Editor on mazes and labyrinths, geomancy and ancient stone crosses; Rupert Pennick on holy wells; M. Behrend on hobbyhorses; Ann Pennick on step charms. Also there's an interesting piece on Scottish subterranea.

Last, but not least, "THE LAMBTON WORM AND OTHER NORTHUMBRIAN DRAGON LEGENDS" by Paul Screeton, is still available at £2-35, from 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25 2AT. Buy one yourself or for a friend for Xmas. *****